

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN**

ROBERT E. EDWARDS,

Plaintiff,

-vs-

Case No. 13-C-159

MICHAEL GASSER,

Defendant.

DECISION AND ORDER

The plaintiff, a prisoner proceeding pro se, filed a complaint in the above captioned action. The plaintiff has also filed a petition for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*. Pursuant to the Prison Litigation Reform Act (PLRA), the plaintiff is required to pay the full amount of the statutory filing fee, \$350.00, for this action.¹ See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1).

Under the PLRA, which amended the *in forma pauperis* statute, the court must assess an initial partial filing fee of twenty percent of the average monthly deposits to the plaintiff's account or average monthly balance in the plaintiff's prison account for the six-month period immediately preceding the filing of the complaint, whichever is greater. *Id.* After the initial fee is paid, the prisoner must make monthly payments of twenty percent of the preceding month's income until the filing fee is paid in full. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(2). "The agency having custody

¹ In a Decision and Order dated March 25, 2013 the Court ordered that the plaintiff pay an initial partial filing fee of \$17.33 on or before April 15, 2013. He did not submit the fee, but instead submitted a petition for leave to proceed in forma pauperis which was docketed on April 16, 2013. It appears that there was a significant delay in mailing the petition to the Court due to postage issues. In any event, it is not clear that the plaintiff received the Court's March 25, 2013 order assessing the initial partial filing fee. Therefore, by this order, the Court is issuing that order anew with an amended deadline for submitting the initial partial filing fee.

of the prisoner shall forward payments from the prisoner's account to the Clerk of the Court each time the amount in the account exceeds \$10 until the filing fees are paid." *Id.*

The plaintiff filed a certified copy of his prisoner trust account statement for the 3-month period immediately preceding the filing of the complaint as required under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2). A review of this information reveals that, for the 3-month period immediately preceding the filing of the instant complaint, the average monthly deposit in the plaintiff's prison account was \$86.67 and the average monthly balance to the account was \$28.15. Thus, in accordance with the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1), the plaintiff is required to pay an initial partial filing fee of \$17.33. The plaintiff shall pay the initial partial filing fee of \$17.33 to the Clerk of Court on or before May 8, 2013. Failure to pay the initial partial filing fee within the specified time period may result in dismissal of the action with prejudice pursuant to Civil Local Rule 41(c) (E.D. Wis.) and Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b).

The PLRA also provides that if a prisoner files more than three actions or appeals which are dismissed as frivolous, malicious, or for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted, the prisoner will be prohibited from bringing any other actions *in forma pauperis*, unless the prisoner is in imminent danger of serious physical injury. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). In the event that his action is later dismissed for any of the above reasons, it will have an impact on the prisoner's ability to bring other actions *in forma pauperis*. This analysis of the complaint is not undertaken by the court until after the initial partial filing fee is paid. Accordingly, the plaintiff will be afforded an opportunity to voluntarily dismiss this action to avoid incurring a "strike" under § 1915(g).

Notice to Plaintiff: If you do not wish to pay the filing fee as set forth in this Order or do not wish to proceed with this action to avoid incurring a “strike” under §1915(g), you must notify the court by filing a letter with the Clerk of Court on or before May 8, 2013, stating that you do not wish to prosecute this civil action. If you write such a letter, this case will be dismissed without prejudice. Voluntary dismissal will not be counted as a “strike” under §1915(g).

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that on or before May 8, 2013, the plaintiff shall forward to the Clerk of Court the sum of \$17.33 as an initial partial filing fee in this action.

Upon payment of the initial partial filing fee, the court will determine whether the action can continue to proceed *in forma pauperis*. The court will review the complaint to determine that the action is not frivolous or malicious and that the complaint states a claim upon which relief can be granted. If the complaint does not meet this standard, the action will be dismissed.

IT IS ALSO ORDERED that a copy of this order be sent to the Milwaukee County Sheriff.

Dated at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this 17th day of April, 2013.

BY THE COURT:


HON. RUDOLPH T. RANDA
U.S. District Judge